

**What is Rotary? What do Rotarians do?**

**How do Rotarians make a difference in the world?**

**Rotary is one of the largest and most influential international humanitarian service organizations in the world.**

• Rotary’s 1.2 million members worldwide belong to more than 33,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

• As volunteers, Rotary members have been serving the needs of communities worldwide since 1905.

**Rotary is a global network of business, professional, and community leaders.**

• Through volunteer service, the women and men of Rotary build friendships and enlarge their circle of business, professional, and community acquaintances.

• Participating in international service projects allows Rotary members to connect with people from around the world and promote cross-cultural understanding.

**Rotary promotes peace and international understanding through its educational and humanitarian programs.**

• Rotary sponsors the largest privately funded international scholarship program in the world. Since 1947, Rotary has contributed roughly US$500 million to fund 38,000 students from 100 countries. These cultural ambassadors use the skills they acquire through their studies abroad to help their communities.

• Rotary clubs promote peace by initiating thousands of humanitarian projects every year that address the underlying causes of social instability and conflict — such as hunger, poverty, disease, and illiteracy.

• Rotary’s top philanthropic goal is to eradicate polio worldwide.

• Since 1985, Rotary members have donated their time and money to help immunize more than two billion children in 122 countries.

• To date, Rotary has contributed **US$1 BILLION** and countless volunteer hours to fighting the disease.

• In 2007 and 2009, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded The Rotary Foundation grants totaling US$355 million. In December 2007, Rotarians made a commitment to matching with $200 million by June 30, 2012.....and as of last

 week, **Rotarians have already raised $215,754,500.00!**

**This is an exciting yet challenging time. Rotary and our partners have reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide.**

• In 2007, 1,315 cases of polio were reported, compared with 350,000 cases in 1988.

• Polio still threatens children in parts of Africa and South Asia.

• Polio remains endemic in just three countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria

**Thanks to Rotary...In January 2012, India was taken off the list of polio endemic countries!**